

Department of Energy
Germantown, MD 20874-1290

FEB 21 1996

Dr. Inessa Drobyshevskya
Minister of Health
Miasnikova St., 39
220010 Minsk
Belarus

Dear Dr. Drobyshevskya:

I am pleased to inform you that I am planning on visiting Minsk along with my colleagues, Dr. Mohandas Bhat and Dr. Elaine Gallin, to participate in the First International Conference of the European Commission, Belarus, Russian Federation and Ukraine on the Radiological Consequences of the Chernobyl Accident to be held from March 18-22, 1996. I am scheduled to speak at this meeting on the morning of Monday, March 18, 1996, in place of our Assistant Secretary, Dr. Tara O'Toole.

I would like to take advantage of this opportunity to meet with you and the administrators and researchers associated with the Joint Coordinating Committee for Civilian Nuclear Reactor Safety thyroid study in Belarus. Specifically, we would like to follow up on the visit of Dr. Elaine Gallin, my Deputy Director. In this connection, I would like to know if you have received a budget for this project, and whether it has been designated as a "State Project."

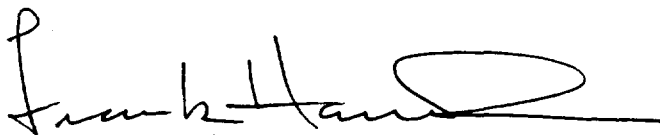
Dr. Gallin is working on the issues that she discussed with you in January 1996. In the next few weeks, she will be sending you another draft of a funding agreement for your consideration. By the time we reach Minsk, we hope that you will have had time to study this material. If it is agreeable with you, we can discuss this agreement and, hopefully, jointly sign it during my visit. Please let us know, as soon as possible, any other agenda item you wish to be included in our discussions.

I am aware that your schedule is going to be busy that week. Nevertheless, I hope that you will be able to accommodate a meeting with us during that week, preferably on the afternoon of March 18, 1996, or anytime on March 19, 1996. We would also like to meet with the researchers on the thyroid study to get a briefing on the progress of the project to date. Dr. Gallin and Dr. Bhat will be available for further consultation until the morning of March 22, 1996.



I look forward to my meeting with you and the project staff and scientists. Thank you for your prompt response.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Frank Hawkins", with a large, stylized loop at the end.

Frank Hawkins
Director
Office of International
Health Programs

cc: Dr. Carol Kessler, DOS
Dr. Lynn Anspaugh, LLNL
Dr. Bruce Waccholz, NCI
Dr. Shlomo Yaniv, NRC
Dr. Nikolay Krisenko, Ministry of Health
Dr. Edouard Glazkov, Ministry of Health
U.S. Ambassador to Belarus